FAQs: RAMALINGASWAMI RE-ENTRY FELLOWSHIP

Eligibility

1. Who is eligible to apply?
   Indian nationals working abroad as Post-doctoral fellows/Scientists in any area of life sciences & biotechnology, bio-engineering, health care (human and animal), agriculture and veterinary biotechnology, bio- energy and allied areas are eligible to apply.

2. Are overseas citizens of India eligible to apply?
   No, overseas citizens of India are not eligible to apply.

3. How many years of post-doctoral experience do I require to apply?
   A minimum of three years of post-doctoral experience is required for applying. You need to have at least 2 years of recent postdoctoral research experience from overseas research laboratories. Postdoctoral experience (if any in India) prior to your overseas research experience would also be considered.

4. Can I apply if I have already returned to India?
   Yes, you can apply for this fellowship if you have already returned to India provided it is less than a year as on the closing date of advertisement.

5. Will my research experience after returning to India be taken into account?
   No, only the research experience abroad and any post-doctoral experience in India prior to your overseas experience would be counted.

6. From which date on my postdoctoral experience will be considered?
   Postdoctoral experience will be counted from the date of your joining as Post-doctoral fellow after your Ph. D degree has been awarded.

7. If my postdoctoral experience is just short of one month as on the last date of application then, can I apply?
   No, in that case you are not eligible.

8. Can I apply for the fellowship if I already have a job/ position in India after my return from overseas?
   Yes, you are eligible to apply if you already have a job/ position in India after your return from overseas (within less than one year as on closing date of the advertisement).

9. Is there any age bar for applying?
   The upper age limit for applying is 45 years as on last date of receiving applications.

10. Will experience in industry be counted as research experience?
    Any research experience (post-PhD/post-MD or equivalent) regardless of the type of organization where it was carried out would be considered.

11. Am I eligible to apply in two different schemes simultaneously?
Yes, you can apply for two different schemes simultaneously. But upon selection you need to choose only one fellowship.

12. Do I need a host institute in India while applying for RLS fellowship?
Yes, you need to choose a host institute/university/industry in India where you would like to carry out your research during the tenure of the fellowship. The forwarding should be from Head of the Institution like Registrar/Vice Chancellor/ Director/Dean Research (as the case may be). Forwardal from the Head of the division will not be considered. In case of industry the forwarding should be from the CEO/Head of HR dept.

13. Can my application be forwarded by two different host institutes?
You can submit your nomination through single host institute only. However, host institute can nominate more than one candidate.

14. What would be my professional status in the host institute once I join as RLS fellow?
The institute is supposed to treat RLS fellow at par with faculty (Assistant Professor/Scientist D) and the institute may provide with all the facilities to which a Permanent faculty is eligible. In addition, you will also be allowed to take Ph. D students.

Funding

1. What will be the duration of fellowship?
The duration of the fellowship will be for a period of five years. In exceptional cases, the duration of the award may be extended by another 2 years after a fresh appraisal. However, during extension, only fellowship and HRA will be provided and no research/contingency grant will be provided. Those who have already been absorbed as permanent faculty during the tenure will not be considered for extension.

2. What is the amount of fellowship that is provided to RLS fellows?
A consolidated monthly remuneration of Rs. 1,00,000/- p.m. (consolidated) is provided to the Ramalingaswami fellows upon selection after joining respective host institutes. In addition, a House Rent Allowance of Rs. 18,500/- p.m. (consolidated) is given to fellows.

3. Is there any Research/ Contingent grant provided?
A research/contingency grant of Rs. 10.00 lakhs for the 1st & 2nd year; Rs. 7.50 lakhs for 3rd & 4th year; Rs. 5.00 lakhs for 5th year for purchase of consumables, minor equipment, international and domestic travel, engaging manpower and other contingent expenditure to be incurred for the implementation of research proposal would be provided to the Ramalingaswami fellows. Institutional overhead Rs. 50,000/ year is also provided.

4. Is the fellowship taxable?
The fellowship is taxable as per Govt. of India rules.
5. Can I avail Fellowship and Salary from the Institute at the same time?
   No, you can avail either fellowship or salary at a given point of time. However, you can avail Research Grant, Contingency and overhead along with salary or fellowship. In case you get a job in the same host institute or in another institute, then you may immediately inform Department of Biotechnology regarding your appointment. Relevant documents of the job including appointment letter, joining report, terms and conditions duly signed on each page by you as well competent authority along with clarification as whether you would opt for fellowship or salary may be provided to the department.

6. Am I eligible to apply for extramural R &D research grant?
   Yes, you are eligible to apply for regular research grant/s through extramural and other research schemes of various S&T agencies of the Government of India, provided that a Co-PI is a regular faculty member.

7. If selected, what is the time duration to join the host institute as a Ramalingaswami fellow?
   You must join the host institute within 9 months from the issue of the Fellowship Award letter and no extension will be considered under any circumstances. If candidate fails to join within the stipulated time the fellowship stands cancelled automatically.

Application

1. When and how do I apply for RLS fellowship?
   You may apply for the RLS fellowship against the advertisement which is placed in scientific journals like Nature, Science, Current Science, Biospectrum & National Dailies and at DBT website. You need to apply for the fellowship online by filling out RLS fellowship on-line application form available from the year 2019-20.

2. Do you accept applications sent offline?
   No, the applications will be accepted only if you submit through online mode. However, you need to submit a hard copy of the application submitted online to the department.

3. How do I send my letter of recommendations?
   E-mail addresses and contact details of the referees are to be provided by you while filling out the application form. DBT will receive the comments from your referee directly through the online portal created for this fellowship. However, you are to ensure that your referee provides recommendations on time. Department is in no way responsible if comments are not received in time.

4. What does host Institute refer to?
   Host Institute refers to any University (Public/Private /Deemed University recognized under UGC Act/ Relevant Industry), national R &D Institutes and PG Colleges etc. where the Ramalingaswami Fellow will carry out his/her research work.
5. **Is forwarding letter from the host Institute mandatory at the time of submission of the application?**
   Yes, the forwarding letter from the host institute is mandatory at the time of submission of your application otherwise your application will not be accepted.

6. **What will be the role and responsibility of the host institute?**
   Host institute is expected to provide you with office and laboratory space, access to equipments, library and other relevant facilities for implementing the research project proposal submitted under this fellowship.

7. **How many times can I change host Institute?**
   You may change the host institute only once during the tenure. However, in case you get a job you are allowed to accept the same and if required host institute can be changed. In either case, you need to inform the department about change of the host institute.

8. **Am I eligible to get relocation allowance from overseas?**
   No, you are not eligible for reallocation allowance from overseas.